Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that modulates ~~untranslated region (UTR) dependent expression of~~ human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) ~~protein~~ mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a compound with a human cell engineered to express a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to ~~a~~ the full-length 5' UTR and ~~a~~ the full-length 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA; and

(b) detecting the level of the reporter protein expressed, wherein an alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed in the presence of a compound compared to the level of the reporter protein expressed in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control indicates that the compound modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression~~ human ~~of human~~ VEGF ~~protein~~ mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to ~~a~~ the full-length 5' UTR and ~~a~~ the full-length 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA; and

(b) detecting the level of the reporter protein expressed, wherein an alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed in the presence of a compound compared to the level of the reporter protein expressed in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control indicates that the compound modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF ~~protein~~ mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~.

46. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that ~~specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF ~~protein~~ mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a compound with a first human cell engineered to express a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to ~~a~~ the full-length 5' UTR and ~~a~~ the full-length 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;

(b) contacting the compound with a second human cell engineered to express a second reporter protein encoded by a second reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of a different mRNA, wherein the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of the different mRNA are not the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of ~~mRNA other than~~ the human VEGF mRNA; and

(c) detecting the level of expression of the first and second reporter proteins, wherein an alteration in the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and no alteration in or not a substantially altered level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound relative to the level of expression of

the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control indicates that the ~~a~~ compound ~~that specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control~~.

47. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that ~~specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a compound with a first human cell engineered to express a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to ~~a~~ the full-length 5' UTR and ~~a~~ the full-length 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;

(b) contacting the compound with ~~a~~ human cells in a plurality of wells, wherein each well is isolated from another well and the human cells in each well are ~~panel of human cells, wherein each human cell in the panel is isolated from each other and each human cell is~~ engineered to express a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR ~~of a mRNA~~ of a different mRNA, wherein the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of the different mRNA are not the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of ~~other than~~ the human VEGF mRNA; and

(c) detecting the level of expression of the first reporter protein and each ~~isolated~~ reporter protein in each ~~the panel~~ well, wherein a compound that ~~specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~ is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein ~~by the first human cell~~ in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein ~~by the first human cell~~ in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of each ~~isolated~~ reporter protein in ~~the panel~~ each well in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of each ~~isolated~~ reporter protein in ~~the panel~~ each well in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that ~~specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to ~~a~~ the full-length 5' UTR and ~~a~~ the full-length 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;

(b) contacting the compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a second reporter protein encoded by a second reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of a different mRNA, wherein the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of the different mRNA are not the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of ~~mRNA other than~~ the human VEGF mRNA; and

(c) detecting the level of expression of the first and second reporter proteins, wherein an alteration in the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and no alteration in or not a substantially altered level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control indicates that ~~a~~ the compound ~~that specifically~~ modulates ~~UTR-dependent expression of the~~ human VEGF mRNA translation governed by the untranslated regions of the human VEGF mRNA ~~protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control~~.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the compound does not alter VEGF mRNA levels.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the 5' UTR is operably linked upstream of the reporter mRNA encoding the reporter protein.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the 3' UTR is operably linked downstream of the reporter mRNA encoding the reporter protein.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the reporter protein is firefly luciferase, renilla luciferase, click beetle luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, red fluorescent protein, cyan fluorescent protein, blue

fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, beta-glucoronidase, beta-lactamase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, or alkaline phosphatase.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is engineered to stably express the reporter protein.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is engineered to transiently express the reporter protein.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45 further comprising measuring the effect of the compound on the level of expression of the human VEGF protein.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is a HeLa cell or a 293 cell.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the cell-free translation mixture is a cell extract derived from a human cell, a yeast cell, a mouse cell, a rat cell, a Chinese hamster ovary ("CHO") cell, a Xenopus oocyte, a primary cell, an undifferentiated cancer cell, or a rye embryo.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45 further comprising (c) determining the structure of the compound.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the structure of the compound is determined by mass spectroscopy, NMR, vibrational spectroscopy, or X-ray crystallography.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed is detected by measuring the activity of the reporter protein.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed is detected by measuring the amount of the reporter protein.

66. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the level of expression of the reporter protein in the presence of the compound is reduced relative to the level of expression of the reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control.

67. (New) The method of claim 46 or 48, wherein the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is reduced relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control, and the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control.

68. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is reduced relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control, and the level of expression of each reporter protein in each well in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of each reporter protein in each well in the absence of the compound or the presence of the negative control.